

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /066 W
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P R 121545Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6875
INFO AMCONSUL GUAUAQUIL
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0182

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, EC
SUBJECT: POVEDA STRONGLY REAFFIRMS SUPPORT OF RETORNO PROCESS

REF: (A) QUITO 0155; (B) QUITO 0163

1. IN SEPARATE SPEECHES TO THE ARMED FORCES AND TO THE NATION ON JANUARY 11, ADMIRAL POVEDA, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT, STRONGLY REITERATED THE GOE'S COMMITMENT TO ITS PLAN TO RETURN ECUADOR TO CIVILIAN RULE. REFERRING TO THE CAMPAIGN BY SOME PARTIES TO NULLIFY BALLOTS IN THE JANUARY 15 CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM, POVEDA FORCEFULLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE ITS PLAN TO TRANSFER POWER TO AN ELECTED CIVILIAN PRESIDENT NO MATTER HOW MANY VOTES ARE NULLIFIED IN THE REFERENDUM.

2. ADDITIONALLY, POVEDA WARNED THAT THE GOE WILL TAKE ANY NECESSARY STEPS TO ASSURE POLITICAL TRANQUILITY FROM NOW THROUGH THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION JULY 16 AND UNTIL THE
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TRANSFER OF POWER. HE URGED ALL ECUADOREANS TO GO TO THE POLLS AND CHOOSE THE CONSTITUTION THAT WILL BE THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND.

3. COMMENT: POVEDA COULD NOT HAVE REAFFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH THE PROCESS TO RETURN TO CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT IN STRONGER TERMS. HIS

STATEMENTS DID MUCH TO REASSURE THE NATION ABOUT THE PATH THE GOE INTENDS TO TAKE FOLLOWING THE REFERENDUM. IT IS QUESTIONABLE HOW HIS COMMENTS WILL AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THE JANUARY 15 REFERENDUM. ALSO, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT POVEDA'S DETERMINATION TO CARRY THROUGH THE PROCESS COULD CONCEIVABLY BE OVERPOWERED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL EVENTS IN THE CASE OF A FAILURE OF THE REFERENDUM. HIS COMMENTS ARE LIKELY TO DO LITTLE TO DISSUADE THOSE OPPOSITION POLITICIANS (SEE REFTELS) THAT ARE ATTEMPTING TO CAUSE THE COLLAPSE OF THE GOE RETORNO PLAN (BEGINNING WITH THE REFERENDUM VOTE ANNULMENT CAMPAIGN). HOWEVER, BY STRONGLY COMMITTING THE MILITARY AND GOE TO A RETORNO AS PLANNED, HE PLACED A FURTHER OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF A CONSPIRACY AIMED AT ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATE ROUTE AND GAVE HEART TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH SHPPORT THE PRESENT MECHANISM.

BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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